

ASSASSINATION ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTER

Suite 510
918 F. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 393-1917

LYROUCE, ETC.
July 14, 1989

RD FENSTERWALD, JR WHO DEFENDED JAMES McCORD, LYROUCE, ETC.
H. LESAR, LAWYER WHO DOES MY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SUITS

Mrs. Wilma Bernabei
Queens University
Kingston, Ontario,
Canada

OF DIRECTORS
ELLEN FRAVITO
GEORGE MICHAEL EVICA
ED FENSTERWALD JR
ERRELL RESEARCHER
GORDON TATHLOST
JIM KINSALLA
H. LESAR
JULIE MELANSON
SHAW DALLAS INVESTIGATOR
DAVID W. KONE HISTORIAN

RESEARCHER
AUTHOR OF BEST BEHIND MURKIN CONSPIRACY
Dear Mrs. Bernabei,

Recently, while talking with Ed Williams, I learned that your husband's assassination materials were housed at Queens University. Dick WAS TOP CIA AGENT was a member, years ago, of the now defunct Committee to Investigate Assassinations; we lost track of him and were sorry to hear of his death. MURDER.

Ed said that the research materials were only rarely used at Queens. The purpose of this letter is to ask that they be sent to AARC where scores, if not hundreds, of researchers and scholars would study them. We are the central repository of assassination materials and our files are widely consulted on a daily basis. A brochure and a few newspaper articles on our activities are enclosed.

I know of Dick's intense interest in the King case. In that regard, I represented James Earl Ray for five years in a vain attempt to get him a trial. We have immense files on the King case and Dick's materials would be an enormous addition.

If you are receptive to our request, how do we get the University's approval? Needless to say, we would reimburse for all expenses of shipping and packing.

Hoping to hear favorably from you, I remain

DR. PHOTOGRAPH
CLOSE TO MANLEY AND FATHER.
DR. NASHID DUG MY ANTI-ZIONIST
Most sincerely yours, BOOK

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FAREWELL AMERICA (L8) BY ME, SPES, KCB, MAHRAUX, ROESTEN, BERNABEI
Bernard Fensterwald
I ALSO HAD LIBYAN CIA ASSETS AS DID LEAH ROBINSON. PLUS COTRAN SUPPORT.
PASTAFARIAN PUNCHERS

Sr., taking with him the suit he had had tailored for Ray. He would have it altered to fit himself. It was little enough consolation.

In his office Attorney General Canale, who was forced to accept the delay philosophically, glanced through an advance copy of a book which later appeared under the title *The James Earl Ray Hoax*, by Joechem Joesten, an American writer living in Munich, who had published many political exposés.

Joesten, one of several authors who had attacked the Warren Commission report, had written in an earlier book that President Kennedy's assassination had been a plot involving the FBI, the CIA, Dallas police, and even some of Kennedy's aides; that he had been shot from the grassy knoll and that Oswald was an innocent dupe whose rifle had been planted by police.

Dr. King's killing, Joesten's new book asserted, had similar earmarks. Ray, too, was a dupe, and his rifle had been planted in Canipe's doorway. The plotters, in New Orleans, were Southern businessmen who joined with the Klan and Wallace supporters to kill King in order "to strike fear into the hearts of the black people and deprive them of effective leadership." The conspirators had contacted Ray in Missouri State Penitentiary, hired him to act as a decoy—to lay down a false trail—and arranged his escape. To confuse the police in Memphis, there were two James Earl Rays, similar in appearance, speech, and behavior, driving two identical white Mustangs and later traveling abroad on two copies of the same false passport.

King, wrote Joesten, was actually shot from the bushes under the bathroom window, which explained the statements of Solomon Jones and "Cornbread" Carter. After the shooting the two white Mustangs went off in different directions, which explained the reports of white Mustangs seen simultaneously in opposite ends of Memphis. Then, in London, on June 8, both men were arrested under the name Sneyd, Ray at 6:10 A.M., the other man—(in reality the CIA operative who had shot President Kennedy)—at 11:15 A.M., by mistake. The FBI, unaware of the CIA's role, and embarrassed by its arrest of the CIA operative, "a man who enjoyed protection on the highest levels," immediately whisked him away to security, and the entire story revised so that the world was told that only one man, Ray, had been seized.

Then, wrote Joesten, all the confusing stories fell into place.

Canale learned that Judge Battle, Police Director Holloman, and other principals in the case had received copies of Joesten's publica-

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locking the door on them. . . . Wouldn't the police have seen Bartlett? Unless the scene in front of 422½ South Main was not as the police reported it, or unless the police, in some way involved in the plot, wanted deliberately *not* to see Bartlett, as perhaps they might have deliberately wanted *not* to see the man in the military jacket dashing out a moment before. . . .

Hanes had Bartlett go carefully over his story again. He did not change it. Would he draw a sketch of the room, where he sat, where the man sat, the bathroom's position, what was in the man's room? Also the stairs, the landing, everything he could remember? Bartlett did so. It was a good representation. Bartlett certainly had been in that rooming house at one time or another. The question was, Had it been at 6:01 P.M., April 4?

Hanes called in Mary Sue and dictated Bartlett's account, as he had told it, had him read and sign it, as well as sign a statement that he had given this information voluntarily, without threats or offers of reward.

Was he prepared to come to Memphis and testify when and if needed? Yes, Bartlett said. It was probably dangerous, but he could not let an innocent man go to the chair. He had hesitated and hesitated and finally decided to come out with it. "I had to take a good stiff drink before I could call you," he admitted.

Hanes drove him to the airport and saw him board the Nashville plane. Bartlett's story differed from Ray's. The man in the military jacket didn't fit Ray's description of Raoul. But why assume that Ray was telling him the full truth? He might be covering up for reasons he could not explain now. Hanes thought, He would have to check out Bartlett, check him out well. But *if*—just *if*—this stood up . . .

Others were laboring almost as energetically to find the conspiracy. In addition to reporters and columnists making their own investigations, in Washington a Committee to Investigate Assassinations was being formed, headed by Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., about to resign as chief counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure. Fensterwald, forty-seven, a native of Nashville, was a graduate magna cum laude of Harvard, a graduate of the Harvard Law School, and had done postgraduate research at Cambridge University. He had dedicated himself "to helping unravel some of the mysteries of the several political assassinations" and was bringing together in his committee, a non-profit organization, some well-known figures—some of whom had written books denouncing the Warren Report on the President

Kennedy assassination as a shameful fraud upon the public—and all of whom were concerned that the three murders—the two Kennedys and Dr. King—might be related.* They believed there had been a conspiracy in Dallas; that the full story of the Robert Kennedy assassination was yet to be known; and that James Earl Ray was either a hired gunman or a patsy and so either the tool or dupe of a conspiracy.

Several matters were to trouble Fensterwald with respect to the King assassination, one, particularly, when the name of Raoul, Ray's mysterious colleague, appeared. Fensterwald had copies of two photographs. One was a snapshot taken in Dallas on November 22, 1963, half an hour after President Kennedy's murder, showing two men crossing Dealey Plaza with an FBI agent. They had been arrested and later released. One of the two was a slender, curly-haired man with a long nose, identified as a French-Canadian, wearing a suit of French cut. The second photograph was of a man who had been identified to Fensterwald as "Skinny Ralph," one of several American soldiers of fortune "trained for invasions and/or assassinations in the Florida Keys." Fensterwald thought it possible that Skinny Ralph was also one of the two men in the snapshot—but, more important, that he could be, in reality, the elusive Raoul. If Ray were shown these photographs, would he identify Raoul, the man who had directed and duped him? Would he dare to do so? Would he be believed?

Another question perturbed Fensterwald. How many men had been arrested at London Airport on June 8, 1968? One, or two? The first news agency report had stated that Scotland Yard had seized Ray, as Ramon George Sneyd, at 6:10 A.M., en route from Lisbon; the second, that Ramon George Sneyd had been arrested at 11:15 A.M.—a man who reportedly had been hiding for weeks in London. Could there be two James Earl Rays?† If so, which one had been returned to the

* Those who became members of the board of directors included District Attorney Garrison of New Orleans, William Turner, a former FBI agent now with *Ramparts* magazine, Richard Sprague, a computer expert of New York, W. Lloyd Tupling, Washington representative of the Sierra Club, and John Henry Faulk, of Austin, Texas, a TV personality and writer. Among those who joined later were Paul Cook, Paris Flammond, Professor Richard Popkin and Penn Jones, writer-investigator. Ultimately the committee took office space in Washington, built up a comprehensive file of materials dealing with political assassinations and those writing and investigating in the field, and issued a newsletter.

† Fensterwald was not the only one to pose this question. There was a precedent. In World War II, British Intelligence assigned a double of General Patton, Montgomery to travel about, publicizing his activities, so as to draw attention away from the movements of the real General Montgomery. Why not, then, for

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ations office:

Four days before Scotland Yard wrote Dawnay the November 18 letter, which he never got, British European Airways responded to inquiries Richard Bernabei, another independent investigator, had made about Sneyd's travel arrangements with BEA (presumably the airline which he used). Their reply confirms the seeming impossibility of the Scotland Yard version, for BEA issued no such ticket and has no other record of Ray's "having travelled" on their plane on June 8.

BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS

P.O. Box No. 7

Bealine House, Ruislip, Middlesex.



Telephone VIKING 1234 Telegrams BEALINE LONDON

DS/FL/1

14th November 1968

Mr. Richard Bernabei,
Department of Classics,
Queen's University,
Kingston, Ontario,
CANADA.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 30th October about the movements of James Earl Ray. Mr. Ray travelled under the name of Mr. R. Sneyd from London to Lisbon on the 7th May by BEA on the last flight coupon of a ticket originally issued by BOAC. He was arrested at London Airport (Heathrow) while attempting to travel from London to Brussels on BE.466 on the 8th June. We assure that he had travelled earlier that day from Lisbon to London but if he did so there is no record of him having travelled on a BEA service and indeed no ticket was issued for that purpose. It is possible that he travelled from Lisbon to London on a one-way ticket issued by TAP as Lisbon but we have been unable to confirm this.

It is, therefore, something of a speculation as to how he got to Heathrow on the 8th June in time to be arrested.

TWO RAYS. TWO OSWALDS.

Yours faithfully,

M. J. Lester

M. J. Lester
Secretary & Solicitor

igs period.

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it the articles in *Look* Mr. Percy Foreman?" His d them. I am not an editor ce from the article bearing artin Luther King, Jr.?" Mr. Hanes. Mr. Hanes wrote had often and widely again, for the question was iking small changes in wha

uted to James Earl Ray, it ie beginning of a conscious connivings of "federal" ils of racist murderers in th- "can be arranged. If one b icists, such a plot withir tion they regard as brilliant.

story, he could accurately tion, it was thought: the into another part of book. ote that "several police are ed toward the scene of the per hour" to which there was no official reference.

This is as good a place as any to add a recent item on Leifermann. His reporting of the assassination was diligent, professional, and not congenial to the official position. It is interesting that in 1970, although he was then 28 years old, he was ordered to active duty by the Army, which was not happy about some of his other reporting, especially about Green Beret murders and military justice. Leifermann had been in the reserve since 1964 and was scheduled for discharge in November of 1970. The reason given for calling him up is his alleged missing of reserve meetings. Leifermann went to court, charged his writing was the reason for assignment to active duty, and blamed officials for disposing of the statements of doctors accounting for his absences. U.S. District Court Judge Howard F. Corcoran, in Washington, heard Leifermann's appeal on September 21 and 22, 1970.

[2] A funny thing happened to the real Galt on the long way to the minitrial. After his name appeared in the papers as one that had been used by Ray, a truck driver pulled into the Union Carbide plant where Galt works. As Galt told Richard Bernabei, the truck driver approached Galt with what appeared to be a newspaper picture of better than usual quality. It was one of a series of pictures taken in Dallas after the assassination of John Kennedy. This one was not known to have been published and showed tramps in custody. Pointing to one of them, who was a dead-ringer for the man in the FBI sketch of the person wanted for killing King, the truck driver told Galt, "There's your pal," meaning Ray. The picture was unknown to the real Galt. The trucker's explanation is hard to credit. He said he found the picture on the seat of his truck after a stop somewhere in the United States. This means he was a rather extraordinary "truckdriver" with rather exceptional knowledge, to know of the possible significance of a picture he claims was merely left on the seat of his truck by persons and means and for reasons unknown to him.

To show the reader how bizarre this episode was, I reprint here the relevant photographs.



THE TRAMPS,
CHRISMAN,
AND STURGIS
WERE ARRESTED
BUT RELEASED.

WHEN HUNT
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YOU KILLED
JFK ON
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MEMO SIGNED
BY HELMS

Sketch of man wanted for King slaying, from New York Times of 4/11/68 (not reproduced by FBI) compared with picture of man in police custody at scene of JFK assassination in Dallas, 11/22/63, shortly after that assassination. (See p. 254.)

THE KILLER OF KING
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DEERY ROAD / GAGELHILL, PRANCA, ITDA - ROSA GALEGO BLAKER MAILER

